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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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AIRGRAM

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TO : ACTION: SecState Washington

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ANALYSIS & DISTRIBUTION
BRANCH

February 21, 1966

DATE:

FROM : USRO/Paris

SUBJECT : ECONAD Experts' Meeting on Balance of Payments of Communist
Countries, February 10-11, 1966

REF : DEPTTEL 3732

A special ECONAD meeting was held February 10-11, 1966 for the purpose of clarifying and elaborating on present NATO information concerning the balance of payments of Communist countries. Called at the instigation of the U.K., the meeting was attended by experts from capitals of the U.K., France, Germany, and the U.S. The basic papers involved in the meeting were ED/66/6 and other papers referenced therein.

As per U.S. wishes the meeting dealt mainly with the balance of payments situation of the EES and touched lightly only on the situations of the USSR and Communist China. In a meeting of this kind it was necessary to go through all of the available information and statistics in great detail, and the bulk of the discussions and effort were turned toward improving all aspects of the intelligence of NATO members on this subject. Naturally, broad conclusions cannot be drawn until the details are finally collated. Accordingly, for the foregoing reason, and because of the mass of specifics involved, with their interlocking significance, no attempt at separate substantive reporting will be made here.

As a result of the meeting, the NATO IS will submit a summary report, but more importantly, the IS will use the material developed at the meeting for correcting and filling out existing IS documents on the balance of payments of the Communist countries. It is this latter which should be of particular value for future ECONAD work. Of course these reports, when ready, will be submitted to the Department.

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The French and British experts were very forthcoming. The German expert contributed very little.



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